



KAAAC News

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February 16, 2011

*Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!*

*Breaking News
IMPORTANT TO
YOUR
COMMUNITY!!*



ACTION ALERT:

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BILL TO BE HEARD IN COMMITTEE –

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011 – 8:30 A.M – Room TBD.

Dear KAAAC Friends and Supports,

On Thursday, the Kansas Senate Committee on Commerce will hear testimony regarding SB 140: Kansas Small and Disadvantaged Business Development Program Act. This legislation is intended to boost economic development within the State of Kansas by creating new jobs and increasing tax revenues by enhancing participation of Kansas small, minority and women owned businesses in the State's procurement and contracting process.

Why the KAAAC supports this bill...

African American Disparity and Inequity. African Americans are consistently overrepresented in data sources for the unemployed in Kansas. Self-employment has long been a solution to address this disparity in communities of color and permits individuals to earn a livable wage during economic downturns such as these.

Oversight is Lacking. This legislation calls for the development of an advisory committee to assist in the planning and implementation of programs to provide procurement and contracting opportunities to qualified small, minority, and women and disadvantaged businesses to participate in public contracts for public works and goods and services. A Deputy Directory and a Confidential Secretary will also be appointed to carry out the act.

Accurate Data is Sorely Needed. As obtaining the actual data needed to adequately measures the disparities and inequities in procurement and contracting opportunities for African American owned businesses has been impossible, this bill is intended to not only identify barriers to equal participation statewide, but will establish overall participation goals for state agencies, provide ongoing monitoring and tracking of violations, and investigate complaints of violations.

As the State Goes, So Should all Others. Finally, this bill is greatly needed because it will set the precedence for other levels of government, city and county, enabling Kansas small, minority and women owned businesses access at all levels of procurement and contracting opportunity.

While KAAAC would rather have the bill not include outdated language such as “set-asides”, that the Small Business Procurement Act be referenced and enforced, and that the existing infrastructure (i.e. Kansas Dept. of Commerce, Office of Minority and Women Business Development) be utilized to decrease cost, we believe something must be done now. SB140 is a great place to start!

Please contact the following State Representatives and ask him/her to support this proposed legislation!

Chair

[Susan Wagle](#)

Vice Chair

[Julia Lynn](#)

Ranking Minority Member

[Tom Holland](#)

Members

[Robert Olson](#)

[Jean Schodorf](#)

[Jay Emler](#)

[Jeff Longbine](#)

[Ty Masterson](#)

[Ray Merrick](#)

[Chris Steineger](#)

[Oletha Faust-Goudeau](#)

Thank you,

KAAAC

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